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THE ANNUAL REPORT
OF
The Acting Medical Officer of Health

To the Urban District Council of Amble,
for the Year 1918.

AND

THE ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR,

For the Urban District of Amble,
for the Year 1918.



THE ANNUAL REPORT
OF
The Acting Medical Officer of Health
To the Urban District Council of Amble,
for the Year 1918.

GENTLEMEN,

I have to lay before you my report of the health and sanitation of the Amble Urban District for 1918.

The Local Government Board again recommend that reports should be shorter than in pre-war times, therefore I have curtailed it as much as possible.

BIRTH RATE.

There were 77 Births registered during the year, 41 boys and 36 girls, a decrease of 19 from 1917.

The birth rate was counted on a population of 4,403, which gives a birth rate of 17.48 per 1,000. Nine of these births were illegitimate, an increase of 4 over 1917 and 11.68 per cent of the births registered.

MORTALITY.

There were 10 inward transferrable deaths ~~and~~ and these added to the deaths registered in the Urban District, give a total of 81, of these 39 were males and 42 females. The death-rate was estimated on a population of 3,930 and corrected for difference in sex and age constitution was 20.21 per 1,000, which I am sorry to say is very much higher than usual. The chief cause of this was the Influenza epidemic at the end of the year.

The causes of death were as under :

Influenza	-	-	23
Senile Decay	-	-	9
Heart Disease	-	-	8
Pneumonia	-	-	5
Bronchitis	-	-	5
Congenital Debility, etc.	-	-	5
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	4
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	-	-	2
Cancer	-	-	3
Violence	-	-	2

and 1 each of the following—Suicide, Measles, Cirrhosis of the Liver, Appendicitis, Nephritis, Gastro Enteritis, Heart Failure, Chronic Polycythaemia, Multiple Neuritis, Angina Pectoris, Cerebral Tumour, Intestinal Obstruction Chronic Cerebral Disease, Duodenal Perforation, Strangulated Hernia.

ANALYSIS OF DEATH RATE.

Under 1 year	-	-	7
Over 1 year and under 2 years			5
2 years	"	5	5
5 "	"	15	3
15 "	"	25	6
25 "	"	45	13
45 "	"	65	28
65 " and upwards			14

The youngest age at death was 30 minutes and the oldest 92 years.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The number of deaths among Infants was one more than for 1917, viz. 7 under 1 year giving a death rate of 90.90 per 1,000 registered, 4 of these were due to Congenital Debility, and 1 each of the following— Premature Birth, Influenza, and Bronchitis. Two of these were illegitimate.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 6 deaths occurred from Tuberculosis, an increase of 3 from 1917; 4 were due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Of the 4 Pulmonary, one was a male aged 62 years, and 3 were females aged 17, 47 and 54 years. Of the other forms 1 was a male aged 34 years, and 1 a female aged 56 years. The death rate from Tuberculosis was 1.52 per 1,000 of the population.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 53 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified, viz.

Measles	-	-	-	25
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	23
Pulmonary Tuberculosis				1
Other forms of Tuberculosis				1
Diphtheria	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	2

The Measles and Scarlet Fever occurred at the beginning of the year and were of a mild nature. Only 1 death occurred from Measles.

INFLUENZA.

We had two outbreaks of Influenza during the year. The first was in July, but very few serious cases occurred then and only one death, the second came in November, and was of a very deadly type, some cases dying within a few hours of being smitten by the disease. The death-rate for November alone reached the enormous height of 79.91 per 1,000 per annum. I was compelled to close all the schools, and they remained closed till the beginning of the year. The children were also excluded from amusement halls. I also enforced "The Public Health (Influenza) Regulations 1918," prohibiting the carrying on of public entertainments for more than 3 hours. I believe if people had avoided crowded places at the beginning of the outbreak, according to my instructions, our death-rate would have been much lower, as a great number of cases could

be traced to a dance which was carried on for about 6 hours. Of course, this took place before the regulations could be enforced. Most of the deaths occurred among young healthy adults. None of these had had a previous attack of Influenza.

Analysis of deaths from Influenza.

		MALES.	FEMALES.
Under 5 years	-	2	3
Over 5 years and under 20 years		2	
„ 20 „ 40	40 „	1	6
„ 40 years		3	6

By the end of the year the epidemic had subsided only leaving a few isolated cases.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 4 11 factories and 27 workshops in the district. No accidents were reported. 18 young persons were examined by me, none were rejected.

The following are the registered workshops :

Dressmaking and Millinery	5
Tailors	3
Bakehouses	1
Plumbers, Joiners, etc.	18

Gentlemen, I again offer my grateful thanks for your consideration to me during the year.

I also tender my thanks to your surveyor, Mr Burton for his kind help and prompt attention to any duties I asked him to perform for me, regarding the health of the community in disinfecting houses etc.

I am,

Your obedient servant

D. WELSH, F.R.C.S., Edin.

Acting M.O.H.



THE ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR,

For the Urban District of Amble,
for the Year 1918.

To Dr WELSH, F.R.C.S., Edin.

Dear Sir,

I beg to present my report of the Sanitary Administration of the Amble Urban District for the year 1918, together with tabular statements.

In addition to many duties of national importance the administration of the Household Fuel and Lighting Order 1918, was placed in the hands of the Surveyor and Inspector.

HOUSING.

With the call for ships, the Braid, just outside the Urban District boundary, was selected as a suitable site for shipbuilding, and in a few months the children's playground became a hive of industry.

Workshops and offices were erected, plant and materials necessary for the building of ships provided, but no provision whatever was made for the housing of the employees.

Consequently the thirty-four houses which were vacant at the end of the year 1917 were quickly occupied and during the past six months people have been hunting for houses which do not exist.

A number of families have hired furnished rooms and there are a large number of boarders in the town.

If the present industrial activities continue, from thirty to forty new houses will be necessary at an early date

Two cases of overcrowding were dealt with in the early part of the year and the tenants moved into larger houses, but the existing overcrowding cannot be dealt with for the lack of better accomodation.

SANITARY CONVENIENCES & DRAINAGE.

Six defective water closets were fitted with new basins during the year and three nuisances arising from choked traps were abated.

The closet accommodation is the same as stated in previous reports.

Various nuisances arising from choked drains have been abated and two defective yard gullies were replaced by new gullies of an improved type.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES .

One slaughter house was temporarily closed during the year owing to the War, and the remaining 3 have been kept in a satisfactory condition.

DISINFECTION.

Fifteen houses were disinfected owing to cases of scarlet fever (fourteen) and diphtheria (one).

WATER SUPPLY.

An adequate supply of water was maintained throughout the year for all domestic purposes and also for the Ferro-concrete Shipbuilding works on the Braid.

SEWERS

The sewerage system has been sufficient for the requirements of the district and no flooding has occurred during the year.

SCAVENGING.

The usual bi-weekly collection of house refuse has been carried out by the Council's employees and the bulk of the refuse tipped on the Braid, the remainder having been carted on the land for agricultural purposes,

SHIPPING.

This has been of negligible quantity and has consisted mainly of one particular vessel trading to and from France and an occasional foreign vessel for a cargo of coals.

No infectious diseases have been reported.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

There are four dairies and cowsheds in the district, two of which deliver milk outside the district, and two within the district.

Each dairy and cowshed provided with an adequate supply of water from the Council's mains.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

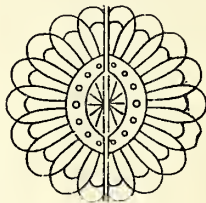
These have been kept in their usual condition of cleanliness and no contraventions of orders have been observed.

There are now eleven factories and twenty-seven workshops in the district.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant.

W, BURTON.



1918 Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report.

AMBLE URBAN DISTRICT. Population, 5000. W. Burton, Inspector.		HOUSING.							DRAINAGE.						Sanitary CONVEN- IENCES.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																													
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